

**MN 270W Pastoral Care in Context**

Instructor: Nathan Frambach

Fulfills pastoral care distribution requirement

Open to all

3 credits; credit/no credit

Description:

This course will provide a working framework for an integrated understanding of pastoral care in the life and ministry of a congregation. Students will be challenged to claim their own approach as a pastoral caregiver and identify the most salient principles and practices for effective pastoral care ministry. A variety of “contexts” for pastoral care will be considered (e.g., loss and grief, developmental and situational crises, illness, life stages, family systems, assessment, addictions, inter alia).

Objectives:

1. To discuss and reflect critically on the systemic, socio-cultural, and theological issues in the lives of human beings from the perspective of the congregation (*practice of complex analysis*).
2. To develop an approach to pastoral care that is attentive to a broad and deep theological interpretation of human experience, thus employing the more normative resources for ministry (e.g., Scripture, theological thinking, prayer, ritual) as well as current, emerging resources (e.g., literature, film, music, new media) (*practice of biblical and theological wisdom*).
3. To grow in self-awareness as a helping person in terms of personal and professional identity, thus exploring the way in which the self of the caregiver is intrinsic to the process of Christian caregiving (*practice of personal faith and integrity*).
4. To grow in awareness and knowledge about the “ordinary” (developmental) crises inherent in the various “stages” of human life (*practice of pastoral concern*).
5. To gain a working understanding of what happens to human beings in situational (accidental) crises (e.g., illness, grief, etc.) (*practice of pastoral concern*).
6. To develop an appreciation of the whole community’s responsibility in caring for one another, and the pastoral leader’s primary role as one of helping to form a community committed to the *per mutuum colloquium et consolationem fratrum* (the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints) (*practice of evangelical listening and speaking the faith*).
7. To appreciate contributions from the social sciences toward understanding human health and brokenness, on both the individual and systemic level; and to encourage networking with others in the broader community (e.g., mental health professionals, local educators, etc.) who are committed to the health and well-being of the people (*practice of immersion in context*).
8. To distinguish and appreciate and respect the distinction between pastoral *counseling* and pastoral *care*, thus coming to understand and embrace the practice of *referral* as pastoral care (*practice of personal faith and integrity*).
9. To propose and critically evaluate a missional, contextual, and congregational approach to pastoral care (*practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament*).

Procedure:

There will be a balance between lecture/presentation and discussion in both plenary sessions and small groups. A variety of teaching and learning methods will be employed and integrated into the class sessions and process. Shared learning and leadership are valued and expected.

Course Expectations & Evaluation:

1. Class attendance is participation and will be tracked by the Instructor.
2. It is expected that careful attention will be given to assigned reading for the course.
3. Two (2) short papers (2—3 pages each) and a small group project will be evaluated
4. Approximately one (1) hour of the allotted course time will be dedicated to providing students the freedom to pursue selected research in an area of personal interest in pastoral care.

Bibliography:**Required Texts:**

1. *The Lost Art of Listening (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.): How Learning to Listen Can Improve Relationships* by Michael P. Nichols
2. *Pastoral Care: Telling the Stories of Our Lives* by Karen D. Scheib

**Novels** (please choose **ONE** from the following ten [10] novels/memoirs to read for class):

1. *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger OR
2. *Evensong* by Gail Godwin OR
3. *Abide with Me* by Elizabeth Strout OR
4. *Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman's Journey with Depression and Faith* by Monica Coleman OR
5. *Little Chapel on the River* by Gwendolyn Bounds OR
6. *When Did You Last See Your Father: A Son's Memoir of Loss and Love* by Blake Morrison OR
7. *The Education of Kevin Powell* by Kevin Powell OR
8. *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans OR
9. *Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist OR
10. *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins* by Emmy Kegler

**Recommended Reading:** (not required, purchase at your own discretion)

*The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach* by Carrie Doehring

*Thinking in Systems: A Primer* by Donella Meadows

*Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry* by Melissa Kelley

*Drinking from the Same Well: Cross-Cultural Concerns in Pastoral Care and Counseling* by Lydia Johnson

*Ministry Among God's Queer Folk, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: LGBTQ Pastoral Care* by Bernard Schlager and David Kundtz

*African American Pastoral Care: Revised Edition* by Edward Wimberly

*Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities* by Jeanne Hoeft, Joretta Marshall and L. Shannon Jung

*Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity* by Elizabeth M. Edman

*Soul Care in African American Practice* by Barbara Peacock

*A Primer in Pastoral Care* by Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner

**Required Articles:** (*links available on CC course site*)

“The Death of Control and the Birth of Fearless Dialogue” by Gregory Ellison in Cut Dead But Still Alive: Caring for African American Young Men

“Bugenhagen’s Pastoral Care of Martin Luther” by Martin Lohrmann

“Borrowed Clothes will Never Keep You Warm: Postcolonizing Pastoral Leadership” by Emmanuel Larrey in Postcolonial Practice of Ministry: Leadership, Liturgy, and Interfaith Engagement

“Prophetic Preaching as Sustained, Disciplined, Emancipated Imagination” by Walter Brueggemann in Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an Emancipatory Word

“Referral as Pastoral Care” by William Oglesby

“Praying Our Anger” by Neil Pembroke in Pastoral Care in Worship: Liturgy and Psychology in Dialogue

*Attention may also be given to various films, documentaries, poetry, articles, and web-based resources and will be referenced in the course syllabus and the CC course site.*